



## H.R. 2490 – TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO CONDUCT A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE MOBILE BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION IN THE MARITIME ENVIRONMENT OF ALIENS UNLAWFULLY ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2490 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) on May 24, 2008. The House Committee on Homeland Security reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote on June 26, 2008.

H.R. 2490 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 29, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 2490 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the U.S. Coast Guard, to generate a program that uses biometric identification tools that take fingerprint and digital photography images when identifying suspected terrorists and other persons who may potentially pose risks to border security. This program is to be operational within one year of this bill's enactment. Additionally, the Secretary is to coordinate this program with other biometric identification programs within the Department of Homeland Security.

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### BACKGROUND

In November of 2006, the 'Biometric Identification at Sea Pilot Project' was launched by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to allow the Coast Guard to collect biometric information, namely fingerprints and digital photographs, from foreign persons interdicted in the Caribbean so that they may be run against criminal and terrorist databases. Such biometric information is collected using hand held scanners.

According to DHS, the project has enabled the Coast Guard to collect biometric information from over 1,100 migrants to the U.S. Of these, 257 migrants were identified as having criminal records and 72 were brought ashore for prosecution under U.S. laws.

[DHS 'Biometric Identification at Sea Pilot Project' report](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 2940 would "have no effect on the federal budget because the agency has already carried out pilot projects using biometric identification and is adopting the technique for its homeland security activities."

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 2940](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

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# LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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